

**Office of National Drug Control Policy  
U.S. Department of Education**

# FAFSA Facts

**(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**

## **How do drug-related convictions affect my student loan eligibility?**

In general, if you are convicted of a drug-related felony or misdemeanor that took place **while you were receiving Federal student aid**, you will become ineligible to receive further aid for a specified period of time upon conviction.

You can shorten this period of ineligibility by:

- ❖ Successfully completing an approved drug rehabilitation program that includes passing two unannounced drug tests, **or**
- ❖ Passing two unannounced drug tests administered by an approved drug rehabilitation program, **or**
- ❖ Having the conviction reversed, set aside, or otherwise rendered invalid.

If you do not wish to pursue early reinstatement of your eligibility for Federal student aid, you can calculate the date at which you would regain eligibility for Federal student assistance by completing the Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet, available at:

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/drugworksheets/attachments/StudentAidEligibilityWorksheetEng1314.pdf>

## **When am I considered to be 'receiving aid'?**

You are considered to be receiving aid beginning on the day that classes start for any term you have applied for, been approved for, and for which you have accepted an offer for Federal student aid.

Summer breaks do not count as time receiving aid if you are not enrolled in classes. However, holiday breaks during the academic year count as time enrolled.

The chart at right will help clarify when you are considered to be receiving Federal student assistance.

## **What about convictions for offenses that took place when I was not receiving aid?**

Convictions for a Federal or State drug offense (either sale or possession) count against a student for Title IV eligibility.



Your financial aid office will make this determination. You may be required to provide written documentation.

### **What if I have other questions?**

For more information, please call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).